

"Building Our Sense of Community"

Shelton State Courier

—Campus Newspaper—

New Series Vol. 3, Number 5

Shelton State Community College

March 18-April 4, 1999

Learning by Doing Good



Dave Sanders and members of his carpentry class begin another day's work on a Habitat House. Finishing off the batter boards are (L-R) Anthony McGee, Horace Gardner, Dave Sanders, Gaffrey Buggs, Ivan Merriweather, and DeCarlos Turner

Photo by Melissa Dover

By Susan Thomas

Tuesday, March 2, was the perfect day to begin a project.

When the carpentry students from Shelton's Fredd campus arrived on-site at 1 p.m., it was warm and the sun shone brightly. Wearing their Shelton State t-shirts, the students unloaded the equipment they would need to begin work on the frame of the newest Habitat for Humanity house.

Members from Holy Spirit Catholic Church approached Dave Sanders, instructor of carpentry at

Shelton, about a month ago with the idea that his students set up the frame for the house. Sanders appreciates the opportunity his students have been given. "They (Holy Spirit) were kind enough to let us help them," said Sanders.

The students began by setting up the batter boards, which outline the exterior and interior walls of the structure. Sanders explained that once they completed putting the batter boards up an aerial view of the site would make it appear that the blueprint of the house had been transferred to the ground.

Using the plans, the students placed posts at the four corners of the lot, pounding them into the ground with a sledgehammer. They then made sure that their measurements were level.

Sanders supervised their actions, but only had to step in a few times to make sure they were doing things correctly. He explained that they have practiced this kind of work many times in the course of their studies.

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Sheltoniana Which Can Be Found Nowhere Else

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Dennis Crim delights in college's nearly half-million dollar landscaping projects

By The Courier Staff

Classes may come, and classes may go. Major programs are started up—and some are left behind. You might not notice one way or another. But you can't help but notice when a college undertakes a major landscaping project.

And Shelton is in the middle of a rather large one—of about \$480,000. The project includes the placing of a brick and wrought-iron fence across the complete front of the campus, the planting of hundreds of trees, shrubs, and the placing of signs in front of the campus and in front of the building.

The work has two major components. The construction is being done by DRM Utilities, a Tuscaloosa firm, and the planting is being done by Shelton landscaping director and instructor Dennis Crim. The grant also made

possible the purchase of the greenery used in the landscaping.

The "hardscaping" work, as Crim terms it, is being done through an ISTE grant. The pleasant-sounding acronym is actually administered by the Department of Transportation and stands for the Intermodal Surface and Transportation and Enhancement Act. Shelton will cover about \$80,000 of the cost, with the other \$400,000 coming from the government grant.

It would take another quarter-million dollars to do the work of the ever-friendly, ever-smiling and seemingly always-working Crim. He and two part-time assistants (work-study student Jason Crane works 19 hours per week and Maurice Wyatt works

Landscaping cont'd on pg. 3



Landscaping supervisor and instructor Dennis Crim puts in place another clump of monkey grass for Shelton's beautification

Cinderella is starting to transform

Second in a series

By Jacob Snyder

Imagine having to go through what seems to be a nerve wracking day of auditions and then coming out with a part in *Cinderella*. The hard part is over, right? Well, maybe so if you consider many hours of rehearsals, four days a week for the next 6 1/2

weeks, easy.

Rehearsals for Shelton State's production of *Cinderella* are Tuesday-Friday, and last several hours every day. During rehearsals the actors are split into different groups depending on what scenes are being rehearsed. Some work on the musical aspects, others on the dance and the rest work on blocking.

"Sometimes the order that we rehearse in can be confusing. Every-

thing is out of order and mixed up," said director Michael Carr. Other than a small amount of confusion, there seems to be no major problems. The cast seems to be doing very well and trying their hardest.

This show is a collaboration

Cinderella cont'd on pg. 3

A Little Night Music scheduled for the Bean

A Little Night Music, hailed as one of Stephen Sondheim's masterworks, takes the stage at the Bean-Brown Theatre in a production directed by Paul K. Looney. Performances are scheduled for March 19-21 and 24-28.

A Little Night Music garnered five Tony Awards and ran for 601 performances at the Schubert Theatre when it opened on February 25, 1973. The song "Send In The Clowns" became a number-one on the pop-charts in 1973. Directed by Hal Prince, the musical is based on the Ingmar Bergman film *Smiles Of a Summer Night*.

Paul Looney, Theatre Tuscaloosa Executive Producer said, "A *Little Night Music* has always been one of my favorite shows and one I've wanted to do for years. When we decided to open the new theatre with a season of all musicals, I thought, 'Well, there's never going to be a better time.'"

Theatre Tuscaloosa's cast for the production includes several company newcomers along with some actors not seen in a while. In the role of Fredrick Egerman is William Taylor, a native of Montgomery. Taylor has appeared in musicals ranging from *Li'l Abner* to *Annie Get Your Gun*, and operas from *Madam Butterfly* to *The Consul*. Joining him in

principal roles are Brent Jones as Henrick, Krista Renee Adams as Anne, Lisa Waldrop as Petra, Ava Buchanan as Desiree, Charles Prosser as Count Carl-Magnus Malcom, Drew Baker as Countess Charlotte Malcom, Kate Graham as Fredrika and Kyle Norris as Frid. Completing the cast are Greg Hagler, Mary Kathryn Perkins, Louisa Williams, Kathy Wilson, Dave Blackwell, Ray Taylor, Kelly McColloch, Anthony Noland, Nicole Knight, Mary Burroughs and Kyle Norris. In addition to Looney as director, artistic staff for the production includes musical director Mike Taylor, choreographer Susan Looney, scenic designer Roy Hudson, costume designer Daryl Harris, lighting designer Charlie Denis and sound designer Bob McTeer.

Performances for *A Little Night Music* are scheduled March 19 and 20 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, March 21 at 4 p.m.; Wednesday, March 24 at 2 p.m.; March 25-27 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 28 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$8 for students and children. Shelton State Community College Students are admitted free for the Wednesday, March 24 performance at 2 p.m., but advanced tickets are required.

Roberts reviews... *Rushmore*

By Brian Roberts

The only word to describe *Rushmore* is odd. I loved this film, but it is certainly not for everyone. Starring Bill Murray, Jason Schwartzman and Olivia Williams, *Rushmore* is the story of a young prep school student's passions.

Max Fischer (Schwartzman) is a pioneer at *Rushmore*. He has started more clubs and is involved in more activities than anyone can possibly imagine. He is also a terrible student. You get a great glimpse into his character by his simple quote, "Everyone should find something they love to do, and do it for the rest of their lives. Mine is going to *Rushmore*." Jason Schwartzman, in his first film, plays this difficult role very well. Max is a loner who only seems to show his true emotions through the plays that he writes and directs. But Max soon turns his passion from school and his plays to a young teacher. Also in love with that young teacher is Max's only true friend, Herman Blume (Murray).

Blume is the school's biggest donor and takes an instant liking to Fischer because of his passion and his honesty. At the end of his own happiness, he finds himself first wrapped up in Max's passions, and then in love with the same woman as Max. This role brings out the absolute best in Bill Murray. After winning the awards for best supporting actor from the National Society of Film Critics, the Los Angeles Film Critics Society, and the New York Film Critics Society, and

receiving a nomination from the Golden Globes, Murray was mysteriously left off of the Academy Award nominations. And that is a shame. This is Murray's best performance since *Ghostbusters*. While amusing in films like *Groundhog Day* and *What About Bob?*, Murray reaches a level he hasn't been at in 15 years.

The object of both heroes' affection is Rosemary Cross (Olivia Williams, *The Postman*). As the movie unfolds, and Max finds out about the relationship between Herman and Rosemary, a war begins. A simple war of pranks that is so-over-the-top it had me rolling in the aisle.

Rushmore has that over-the-top feel of many of the 1980s comedies. Director Wes Anderson, whose only prior film credit was the obscure *Bottle Rocket*, took that style to the fullest. He never tries to disguise the fact he is simply trying to make you laugh. The film delves deep into the hearts of its main characters, but only to serve the purpose of humor.

This is not a comedy like *There's Something About Mary*. It's more akin to '80s cult classics like *Better Off Dead*. If that is your style, I highly recommend *Rushmore*.

Rated R for language and violence. 95 Minutes. *Rushmore* is showing at Regal's Fox 12 Cinemas daily at 1 p.m., 6:50 p.m., and 9:20 p.m.

Future Issues

The *Courier* looks forward to six more issues this school year: two in April; one each month is scheduled for May, June, July and August. Let us know what you would like to know about Shelton by calling the publisher at 391-2278 or the new Shelton editorial office at 391-2406. You may also visit the *Courier* online at:

http://www.shelton.cc.al.us/courier/courier_main.html

"Keep looking up!" By Dr. Lee Albritton

During the month of March, keep watching Venus, the planet named for the goddess of love and beauty, as she slowly moves from Jupiter, the largest planet, to Saturn, the second-largest planet. Venus is very easy to find: simply look in the western sky after sunset for the brightest of those three planets.

Venus, Earth's sister planet, is almost the same size as Earth, and is the second planet from the sun. Her atmosphere, however, is markedly different from ours—it is much denser, completely cov-

ers the planet in clouds, and is almost entirely made of carbon dioxide. One would literally be crushed on the surface of Venus by the great atmospheric pressure (90 times greater than Earth's), and Venus gets her brightness because of the clouds reflecting a large amount (about 75%) of the sun's light.

Carbon dioxide is referred to as a greenhouse gas because it traps heat in a planet's atmosphere and causes the planet to warm—global warming. Because of the high percentage of carbon dioxide, Venus has abnormally high surface tem-

peratures (almost 900° F.). Due to the burning of fossil fuel and subsequent release of carbon dioxide, Earth is starting to have a global warming problem, which I am sure that you have read and heard about in the news.

So, Keep Looking Up during March and enjoy our bright, sister planet—Venus—as she moves away from Jupiter on the horizon and up toward Saturn. Planets orbit the Sun in a plane, the ecliptic; therefore, these three planets will be in almost a vertical line from where the sun sets. Be sure to observe on March 19 and 20, for that is when Venus and Saturn will be the closest to each other.

Shelton State Courier

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The *Shelton State Courier* is a "campus newspaper" written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression and all students are urged to participate with sub-

missions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper:

"The college seeks to provide an atmosphere conducive to open and honest intellectual inquiry in any college forum which is appropriate for dialogue and student participation. The students should feel free to exercise the right to dissent within limits of decorum and good taste."

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

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Landscaping cont'd from pg. 3

24 hours) are planting 2,000 shrubs, 45 one-gallon buckets of monkey grass, 12,000 yards of sod and some 500 trees. The tree varieties include red maples, river birch, willow oaks, 25 southern magnolias, bald cypress, red oak, dogwoods, ginkgoes, and others. The trees are being supplied by Ilex Farms of Tuscaloosa County.

"One of the best things about this grant is that we have been able to get all the work done and the trees and plants supplied locally," said Crim. "It has been a real boon for the local economy."

The whole Shelton new campus project has been good for Crim, he says. Hired to teach classes in landscaping and to oversee the beautification of the new campus, Crim says this is the best job he has had in 19 years in the business.

These years have included stints as superintendent at Cedar Creek Golf course in Birmingham, more than nine years at Indian Hills Club in Tuscaloosa, and six years running his own landscaping business. "The benefits here are great, and I think the people here are very friendly. I am enjoying this work very

much," Crim said.

The official landscape architecture for this latest project was done by Jim Crowe of CSA in Mobile. Crim said this firm has been successful on bidding many Alabama projects because Crowe and his associates know how to get the paperwork just right for Dee Rowe, the Montgomery official who oversees the awarding of grants.

Crim says he has made only small adjustments to Crowe's plan, which he calls a very good one. Because Crowe is a certified landscape architect, he can also make the electrical specifications for the 10-inch signs being placed.

Another Shelton person who can stand up for credit is Steve Coker, who wrote the grant to the Alabama Department of Transportation. But as Shelton President Tom Umphrey said recently, "So many people have worked hard to make this campus possible." Legislators past and present have cast an approving eye on the Shelton effort.

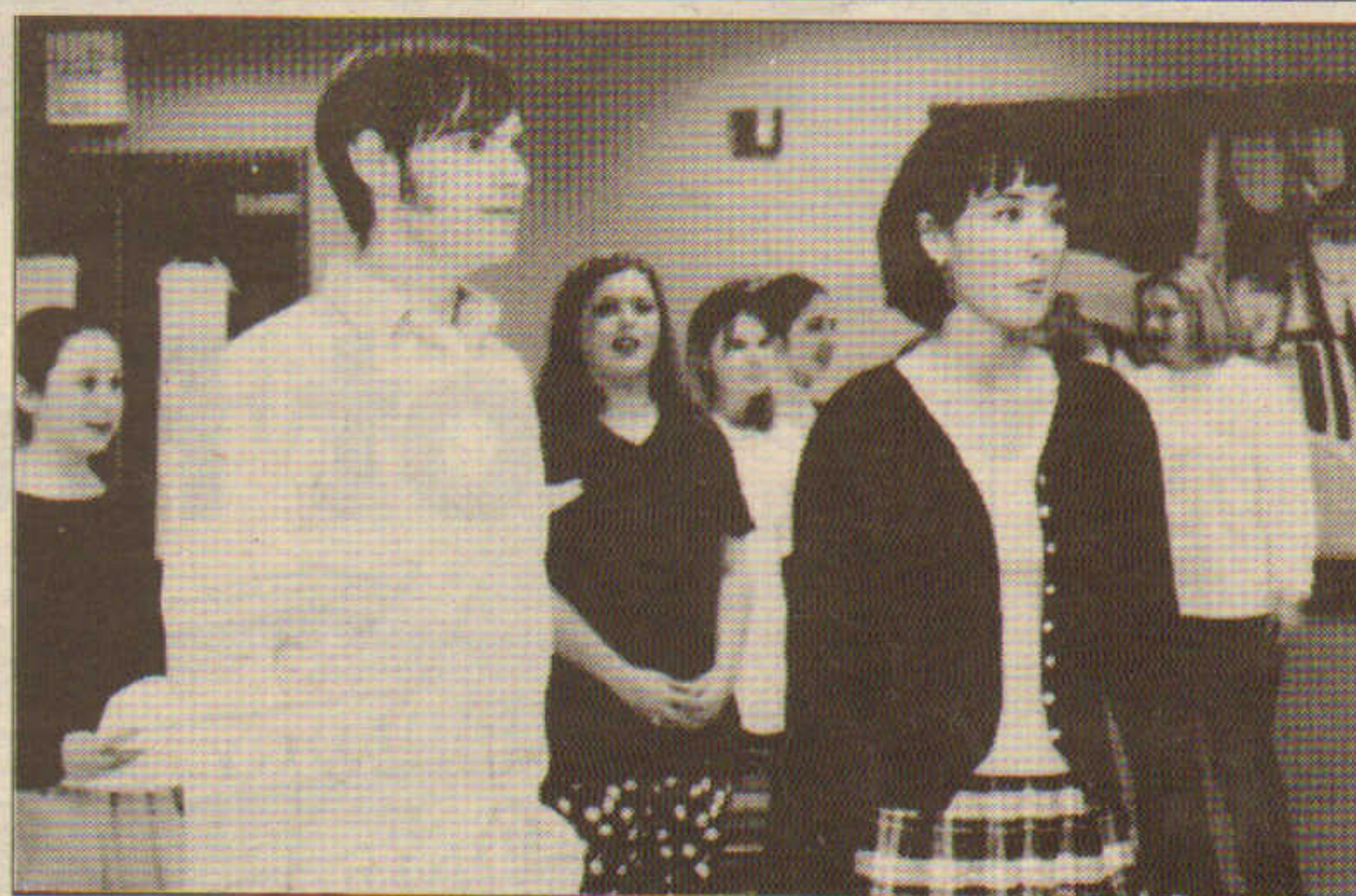
President Umphrey seems to take as much delight in the finishing touches being put to the campus grounds as he did to the original construction. Surveying the grounds, he said, "I'm excited by all this beautiful landscaping work. As the trees, sod, and shrubs mature, this campus is going to be every bit as impressive outside as the instruction we offer inside."

Cinderella cont'd from pg. 1

among the music, dance and theatre departments. Glinda Blackshear, voice teacher at Shelton, says she is having a great time working with the students both in and out of the music department. "The music is delightful, fun to sing. Everybody in the cast has a lot of energy and a very good attitude. The music department is enjoying the opportunity to work with the theatre department," Blackshear said. "Some of the main actors never have sung before; they are finding talents they didn't know they had!"

Melody Bolin, playing the Fairy Godmother, said, "Rehearsals are going great. I think everyone may have a little bit of the jitters, but we are just now putting moves to scenes and blocking it out, so there is plenty of time to calm down. The hardest part of rehearsals is trying to remember where you are supposed to be in what scenes and getting your entrances set with music. Everyone who dances has taken dance lesson before, so the dancing is not the hard part."

The rehearsal period for this production is 6 1/2 weeks, which is, according to Carr, kind of long for a production this size. The rehearsal schedule will continue to be only four days a week until after spring break. After returning from spring break, the actors will rehearse every day until the night of the show.



Kevin Jackson as the prince and Jessica Smith as Cinderella take direction with focused attention during rehearsals for the student production which will run April 15-18

Photo by Melissa Dover

Public Service Announcement

Shelton to host Health Fair

Shelton State will be hosting a Health Fair to kick off spring break, Monday, March 22, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., in the Wellness Center.

Vendors such as Manna Grocery and Buffalo Rock will be providing free snacks and samples. Information booths on health, fitness, and disease prevention will be set up in the Wellness center.

For sports enthusiasts, the University's Bryant Museum will

be highlighted. This year's guest speaker is Verle Dexter from the Public Health department. Her topic is "Preventing Sexually Transmitted Diseases" at 12:15 p.m. Also, there will be fitness and karate demonstrations.

Wellness Center Director Dr. Milady Murphy said, "There is something for everyone at the fair, and it's free! Take time to walk through and experience this!"

Habitat cont'd from pg. 1

The students seemed excited and eager to begin working. For many of the 10 students involved, this is the first project on which they have worked. The students were glad to get the experience, and they were happy about helping someone in need in the process.

"Name one other thing that brings more people together. You can walk by (a house) and say I did that; it gives you a real sense of accomplishment," Horace Gardner said about his choosing carpentry.

Some of the students expressed some worries about doing a good job. Once they got more comfortable on-site, the students quit joking around with each and focused more on the job at hand.

They called back and forth to each other, asking for specific tools and correcting the actions of other students. The only hints any passers-by would have that the people working that afternoon were not professionals were their Shelton State t-shirts.

Most of the students involved are more than half of the way through the year-long carpentry program offered on the Fredd campus. The students in the class tend to be older, seeking to find better employment through the program. This is what student Gaffrey Buggs says attracted

him to carpentry. He says it is a better way of life. "There is lots of opportunity and I like doing things with my hands."

Other projects the class has completed include pouring the steps at the unemployment office. Opportunities like this might help to ensure that they themselves never have to use those very steps.

Sanders said he would like to involve his students in more community projects where they could get building experience. "We're working with the only two organizations we know of: this one and Christmas in April. This will be worth more to them than six weeks in the classroom," Sanders said.

It should take about 10 days for the students to complete framing the house. Due to rainy weather construction on the frame of the house probably will not be completed until near the end of March.

The house is being built in the Oak Park section in western Tuscaloosa near Stillman College. Holy Spirit Catholic Church is sponsoring the building of the house for Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat is a charitable organization that builds houses for people who demonstrate need. The people selected to receive homes are required to spend time working on their new home and another Habitat home. This house is being built for a single mother of two.

According to Bill Phillips, director of

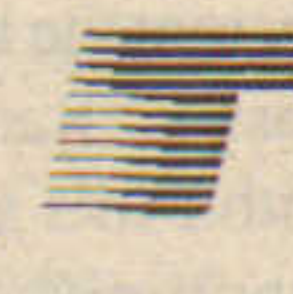
Habitat cont'd on pg. 11

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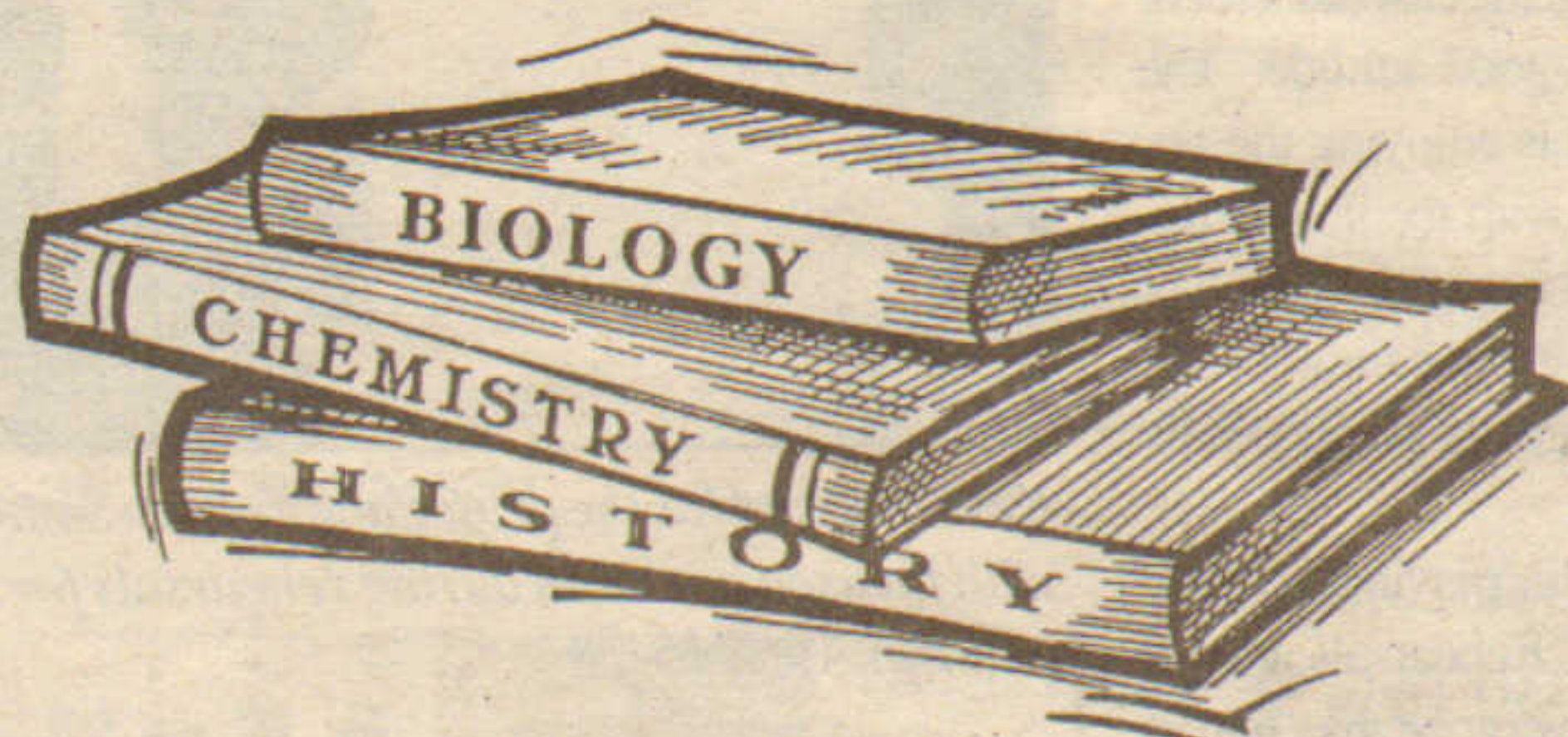
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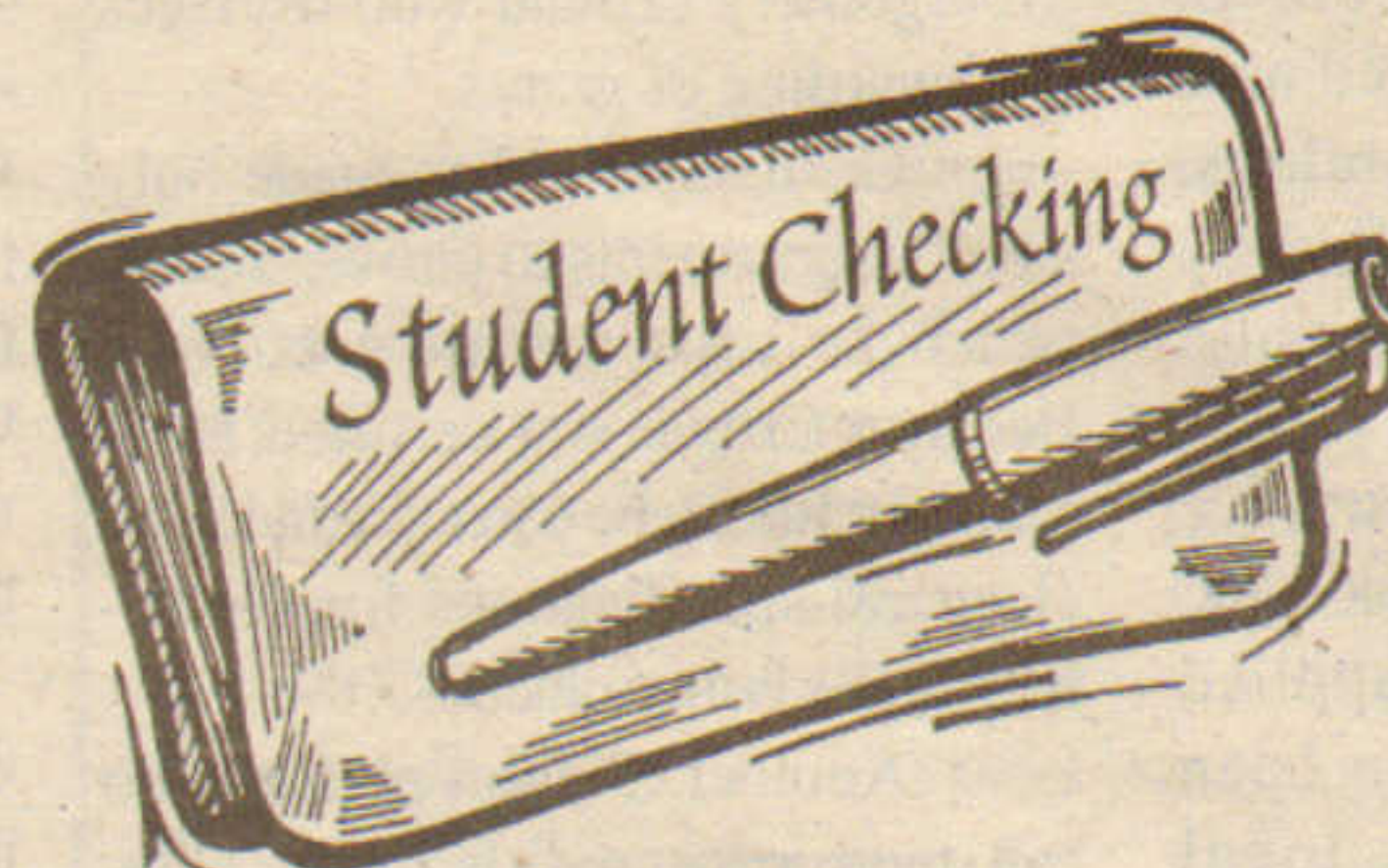
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T-Notes Stories from West Alabama's musical scene

By Kim Eaton

There was a wild and rowdy crowd at the Ivory Tusk Thursday, Feb. 25, jamming to the tunes played by the Wayne Mills Band of Tuscaloosa. The group had the place rocking with their country / bluegrass / southern rock style of music.

Wayne Mills (songwriter, lead vocal, rhythm guitar) has the country look going on, with the cowboy hat and cowboy boots. His voice could be described as sounding like Mark Chestnut, but Mills throws a country attitude into his music and creates a unique voice.

Dave Woest, also known as Peso, is the lead guitarist, songwriter, and background vocalist. His 10+ years of professional experience with musical background in jazz, blues, funk, country, and rock 'n' roll, makes him a valuable asset to the group.

Earthdog, bass guitarist and background vocalist, is the epitome of the hippie era. He belongs on a stage, with his long curly hair and laid-back personality, and is a true musician with a very raw talent on

the bass.

Last but not least, with their drummer no longer with them, the newly acquired Cliff Miller made his debut appearance with the group on that Thursday night. He does not appear to belong to a country group with his long hair pulled back in a ponytail, the beret sitting on top of his head, and his wire-rimmed glasses. Although it was his first appearance, he still seemed to do fine.

The group performed both original and cover songs, including "Dirt-farm Mississippi" and "Road to Glory" (both originals). Cover songs played include "Sweet Home Alabama," which really sent the house to rocking; the classic "Bad, Bad Leroy Brown," with Mills adding a little country twang to give the song some flavor; and a real crowd pleaser

"Johnny, Be Good." Another cover, and my personal favorite, was "Straight to Hell."

When Mills started singing "I still love a good ole country beat even though I got sandals on my feet," from the original



Wayne Mills Band performed at Tuscaloosa's The Station recently

Photo by Kim Eaton

"Redneck Hippie," the crowd went crazy. Two more songs, both acoustic and played solo by Mills, were "Crossin Dixie" and the song about college life, "Alabama Blues." "Box" was also a great hit with lyrics: "I'm 6 strings on a wooden box and shake a lot like you." Other originals played include "Dream Come True" and

"My Way."

The band interacted well with the crowd, always playing requests and having a great time on stage. Mills would usually hold the microphone out to the crowd and let them sing on a very popular part of a song.

The most interesting part of my night was before the show even started, when I got to interview the group. They are so laid back and really just out to have a good time doing what they love to do. They are planning on recording an album in April that they hope will come out in May.

When talking to Mills, I discovered that the inspirations behind his songs are mainly girls "because I'm sappy ... but the original music and the stuff we write is pretty much about life experiences." Two guys, Jarrod Barrier and Larry Hudson, also deserve credit for helping write some of the songs.

I also learned some interesting facts about these guys. For instance, Mills has met Tone Loc, and the group in general has met David Allen Coe, Marty Stewart, The Lynns, and Drivin n Cryin. The "most famous person they know" in

Tuscaloosa is Greg Bridges. Bridges is "their number one fan and best friend," says Mills.

Their favorite foods consist of oysters (Earthdog), slim jim (Miller), venison (Woest), and shrimp, spaghetti, and "my momma's cooking is my favorite" (Mills). Their likes include everyday things such as hunting, fishing, racing, and golfing. Both Mills and Woest also have degrees from the University of Alabama.

Overall, my night with the Wayne Mills Band was quite enjoyable. This group has already mastered the ability to blend well together and write catchy lyrics, and with the right publicity, I believe they can go all the way to the top.

All in all, this has probably been my favorite group and even though I don't like country, I loved the Wayne Mills Band and look forward to hearing them play again soon. I would recommend them to anyone who likes to have fun listening to music, cause that's what they do. They have fun!



Sports

—The Buccaneers are Here to Play—

Buccaneer basketball teams end winning seasons with a bang

By James A. Crawford II

Shelton State's men's basketball won its first state junior college tournament game Saturday night, Feb. 28, under new head coach Barry Mohun, beating Gadsden State 95-64 in the first round of elimination play.

"We had a good team effort. We looked for opportunities and took them. I'm real happy with the effort. I'm real proud of the men for winning our first tournament game. Our guys hit the open man real well," says Mohun.

The high scorer against Gadsden for Shelton State was Daniel Ike who had 20 points. He was followed by Undrae Lilly and Freddie Jackson who both had 14, Jahmele Ellington who had 13, Jason Meads who had 12, and Marc DeLosReyes who ended the double digit scorers with 10 points.

The success was to be short lived, though. After advancing to play Southern Union the next day, Sunday, Feb. 29, the men hit the proverbial brick wall, falling to Southern Union 88-79 after having lead 44-37 at the half and setting the tempo for most of the game.

"It was a tough, physical ball game throughout. We just couldn't

make the hits that we needed to make, and they did. They started out a lot stronger in the second half," says Mohun. With the loss, the men were eliminated from state play and end the season with an overall 18-13 record.

High scorer against Southern Union for Shelton was Jahmele Ellington who had 20 points, Daniel Ike and Jason Meads both had 15, and Undrae Lilly had an off night with only 12, to top off the double digit scores.

Capping off his first year 18-15 as head basketball coach, Mohun likes the results he has had and looks forward to next season.

"I was real pleased that we finished so strong. I think it's a positive for both those leaving this year and the others that will be coming back.

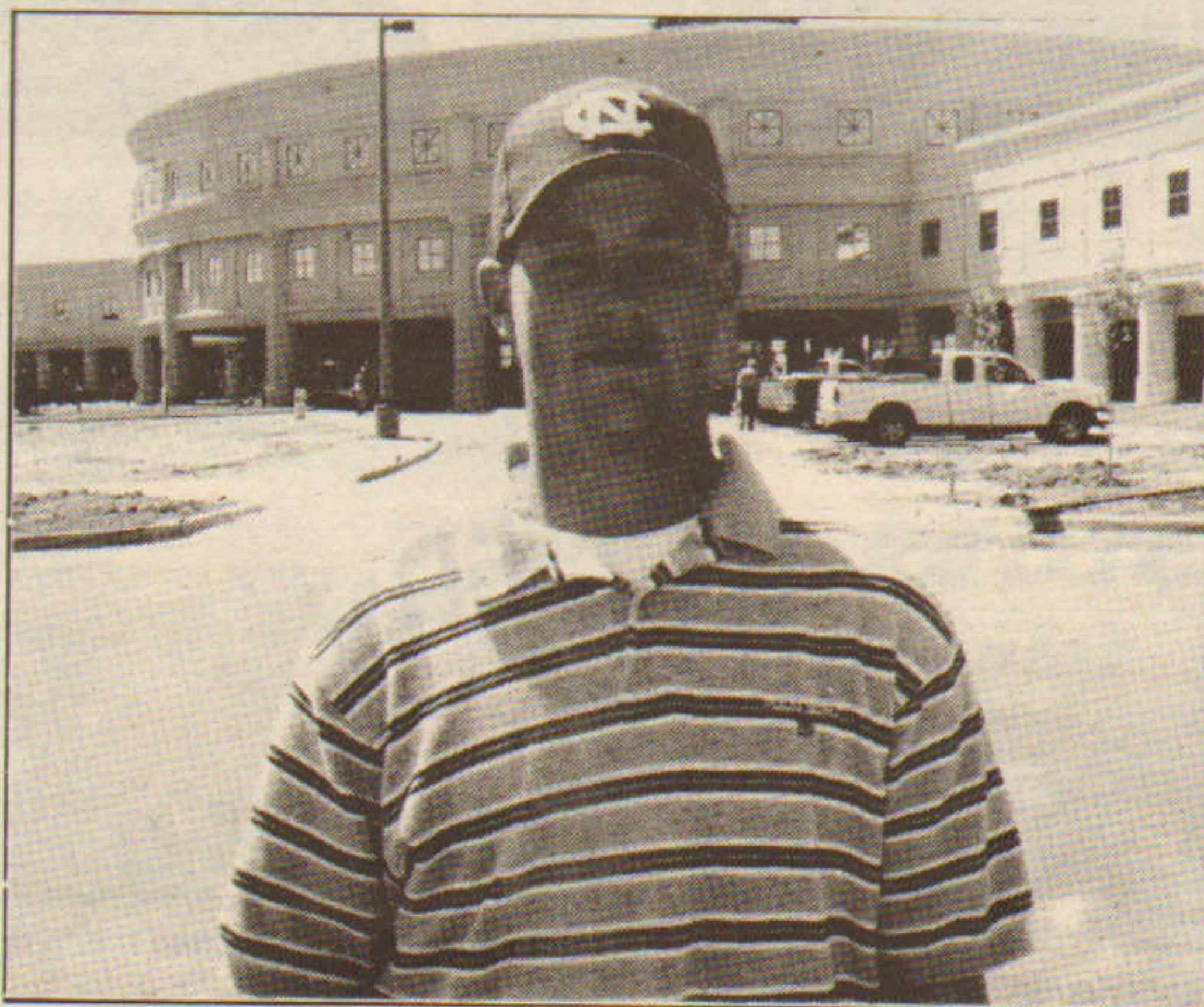
"It's time for a big recruitment drive now. We're going to try and get some guys in here that fit our image and will fit in with our program," says Mohun.

Shelton State's third-seeded women played their first tournament game under new head coach Madonna Thompson, March 3

Season cont'd. on pg. 10



Both the men's and women's teams tallied winning seasons this year. Desiree Archie, sophomore forward from Montgomery, was one of the Buccaneer players whose reach did not exceed her grasp



Jason Dillard leads the Buccaneer golf team with a 72.1 stroke average

Golf team in upward swing

Shelton State has many exciting sports programs, but none more exciting than the nationally ranked number two men's golf team headed by Coach Jim Collins.

Shelton's men are off to a illustrious start in this year's tour.

After placing second in their opening invitational against number-one ranked Tyler of Texas, Shelton wasted no time coming back for a win in its second outing.

After the first round of the two-day Musgrove-Bevill Invitational in Jasper, Shelton had taken a four-shot lead. The tournament was held at the Musgrove Country Club in Jasper which has a 36-hole, 6,500 yard course that comes in with a 71 par.

Leading the way in the opening round for Shelton was Jason Dillard who shot a sizzling one-under par 70 to pace all individual play by two strokes.

Other Shelton scores were Drew Jones at 73, Nick Bamber with 75, Danny Germaine with 78, and Junpei Okuda with 80. Playing individually only, Chad Meeks shot a 77.

Head coach Jim Collins was pleased by the first-round results. He said, "Dillard's round was exceptional, and a four stroke lead is pretty good. Now we'll tee them up again Tuesday and see what

happens."

What happened was textbook playing and Shelton's first tourney victory for the year.

Jason Dillard was again the star for Shelton shooting a 73 for the day, giving Shelton a 300 for the day and a 596 two-day total for the win.

Dillard was the individual title winner with a two-day total of 143. He and his teammate Drew Jones, who shot a 75 in the second round, were all-tournament selections.

Coach Collins was very happy with the results of Shelton's second outing. "I'm very happy to have gotten the win Tuesday."

This past Monday, March 8, Shelton visited the Calhoun Invitational in Auburn.

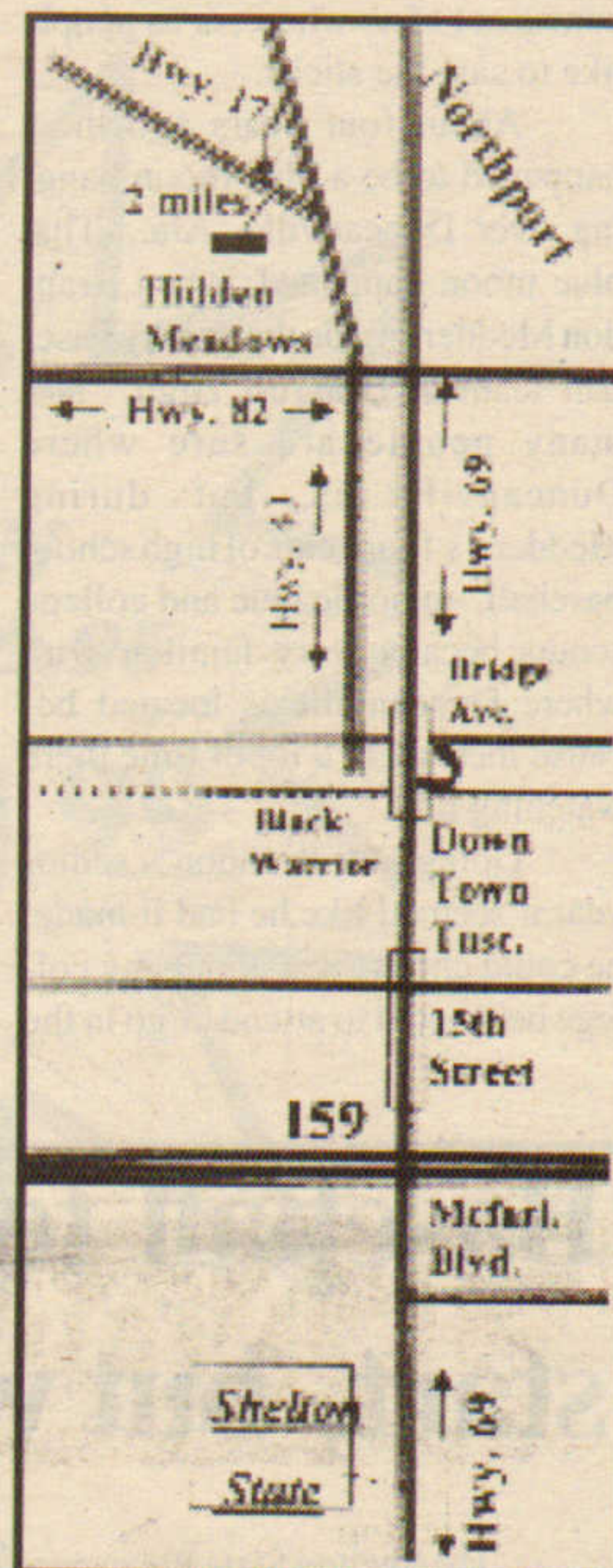
With 16 teams in the running, Shelton was in sixth place with a 315 at the end of the first round.

Iron-play sensation Jason Dillard was again the low scorer for Shelton, posting a two-over-par 74.

By the end of the second round Shelton had tied for ninth place with a score of 630 for the two-day total.

Jason Dillard was again the low scorer for Shelton with a two

Golf cont'd on pg. 11



Map to Hidden Meadows, site of the Buccaneers' home tourney April 5 and 6

Games Coming Up

Women's Softball:

March 19-20 Wallace of Dothan Tournament away
March 21 DeKalb Ga. at HOME
March 26 Central Alabama away
March 27 Jeff Davis State away
March 28 Faulkner State away
March 31 Wallace-Hanceville at HOME
April 1 Southern Union at HOME

Men's Golf schedule:

March 19, 20 Marion Institute
April 5, 6 Hidden Meadows Invitational in Tuscaloosa

Men's Baseball:

March 18 Triton at HOME
March 20 Faulkner State away
March 21 Faulkner State away
March 23 Bevill-Fayette away
March 25 Gadsden State away
March 27 Central-Alabama at HOME
March 28 Central-Alabama at HOME
March 31 Jeff State at Central H.S.
April 2 Southern Union away
April 3 Southern Union away

Baseball player with the golden arm highlights team roster

By Daniel Pettey

When you're watching the news or reading the newspaper, you often hear about some major city high school student making it big or going to some major college, but once in a blue moon a star athlete comes out of no where, or as people like to say, the sticks.

About four years ago there happened to be a blue moon hanging over Duncanville, Ala. That blue moon happened when Brandon Medders made the varsity baseball team at Hillcrest High. Not many people are sure where Duncanville is, but during Medders's four years of high school baseball, major league and college scouts became very familiar with where Duncanville is located because they spent a lot of time there watching him.

Going into Brandon's senior year it seemed like he had it made; he could choose just about any college he wanted to attend or go in the



Brandon Medders is a Buccaneer with a 90+ mph fastball and a desire to stay close to home for now

major league baseball draft. Nothing could slow Medders down from living the dream of every kid who puts on a baseball glove—to play in the major leagues. But almost a month or two before his senior season, he found out his father had been diagnosed with cancer and every thing seemed to come to a smashing halt. He lost his father at the start of the season.

Medders had grown up playing baseball for the team his father coached. "Yeah, my dad was who put a ball in my hand. We kind of learned the game together as I grew up. Sometimes he was harder on me than I thought he should be," said Medders. His dad was hard on him because he knew something the scouts soon would—Brandon has the talent to play.

Medders missed the beginning of his senior year, but he came back at the right time. Although he had played only a few games, he showed what he had at the right time. Hillcrest was playing the eighth ranked team in the country

and he was pitching. Medders ended the night striking out seventeen of twenty-one batters and every scout was back on his trail.

Brandon decided to pass on all the opportunities that waited and stay at home with his mom and his high school sweetheart. That's when he decided to attend Shelton State, despite being chosen in the thirty-seventh round of the major league draft.

Often he is asked how he can throw the ball so hard—up to 93 mph. His best response is: "I just reach back and sling it. But it could have been because I was raised on so much peas and cornbread my mom made me eat. There's not a night I can remember that my mom didn't have me a good home-cooked meal."

Brandon currently is playing ball with Shelton while holding a 3.0 GPA, but don't be surprised to turn on your TV one day and see Medders on there pitching for a major league baseball team.

Baseball team gets off to a rocky start, but with some hopeful signs

The Shelton State Buccaneers baseball team had its second home game called Saturday, Feb. 27 due to rain. On Sunday, Feb. 28 though, the weather broke for a double header against Bevill of Sumiton. The Buccaneers won the first game 14-1 in a blowout.

The Buccaneers had one double each from Joe Cox, Jon Mark Sprowl, and Brian Davis, who also had the only home run of the day. The winning pitcher was Phillip Donaldson (1-0) who had four strikeouts and allowed only four hits. "Our pitcher did a nice job. We managed to get some big hits. I was happy with our quality at-bats. We need more of that in close games. I thought we played good defense as well," said men's head baseball coach Bobby Sprowl.

The second game was suspended by the umpire in the six inning due to darkness. The Buccaneers were trailing at that point 6-5. The game will be finished April 15 when the Buccaneers travel to Sumiton.

On Tuesday, March 2, Shelton dropped a double header to visiting Meridian State 10-5 in the first game and 3-1 in the second. "We played well; our pitcher did a great job. They're a good team. When you play a good team, you have to play well," said Sprowl.

The following Saturday the men weren't any more fortunate losing 7-5 in their first conference game against visiting Bishop State. The first half of the double header was rain-delayed.

On Sunday though, the weather broke and so did Shelton's luck. They swept Bishop in back

to-back games.

Brian Davis had a double, a triple and four RBI's to lead of the play in the 5-1 win. Joe Cox lead off with two RBI's and had the only double in the second game, although several contributors, including Davis, with two RBI's of his own pitched in to boost Shelton's men to a 6-3.

"We swung the bats a little more today. We got some good hits and our pitchers seemed to overmatch their hitters a bit," said Sprowl. 4-8

On March 11, Shelton dropped a double header against Jeff State at home, losing the first game 9-6 and the second one 9-8. The Buccaneers had trailed by as much as 9-4 in the bottom of the fourth but battled back. Matt

Baseball cont'd on pg 11



Head coach Bobby Sprowl has a particular protege on this year's team: his son Jon Mark Sprowl

Photo by Melissa Dover

Women's softball fastpitch team learns fast—real fast

Shelton State's Buccaneers women's softball came out with two big wins Thursday, Feb. 25 in its second home game of the season against Alabama Southern. The women won the first game 3-2 with even play from both at-bat and on the field. The winning pitcher was Michelle Dickey (1-1) who had three strikeouts and allowed 13 hits. "We had some big defensive plays by the infield, which helped keep us in the game. Our pitching was good. We had some errors that hurt us, but the defense couldn't have been better," said head coach Bobby Ussery.

In the second game, Shelton's women came out swinging hard to a 5-1 win. Leading the scoring drive with one double each was Karla Shirley, Deana Bracknell, Cindy Martin and Nicole Barker.

The winning pitcher was Christy Hanshaw (1-1) who had four strikeouts and allowed only four hits. "It doesn't seem to matter who we play. Our lineup is solid all the way around. One is as good as the next. We're so much better now than we were in the fall. Everything is really shaping up well," says Ussery.

On Friday, March 5, Shelton's women put on an exciting romp on the way to a sweep of Enterprise

State in the women's third double-header home game. The women won both games 10-5.

In the first game, the women were lead in play by sensation Cindy Martin who had a double, a triple, two RBI's and two steals. Deana Bracknell contributed with a double and one RBI. Michelle Dickey also pitched-in with four runs and four steals and had three strikeouts to win the game.

In the second showing it was again Cindy Martin putting up the numbers with a double, two RBI's, two runs, and a steal. Pitcher Christy Hanshaw contributed with a double and a run scored and also posted three strikeouts to lift the women to a record of 4-2.

"Our defense was our best point. Defense is going to be our strong point for life. I didn't think we dropped off at all. We have a lot of confidence defensively," says Ussery.

Shelton's women were idle all of last week due to rain. Games against Northwest Shoals, Jeff State, and Wallace of Dothan will be rescheduled.

The women will be away this coming weekend to play at the Wallace of Dothan tournament on March 19, 20 and will be back home to play DeKalb State from Ga. at home at Gordon Davis Park on Sunday March 21. at 1 p.m.

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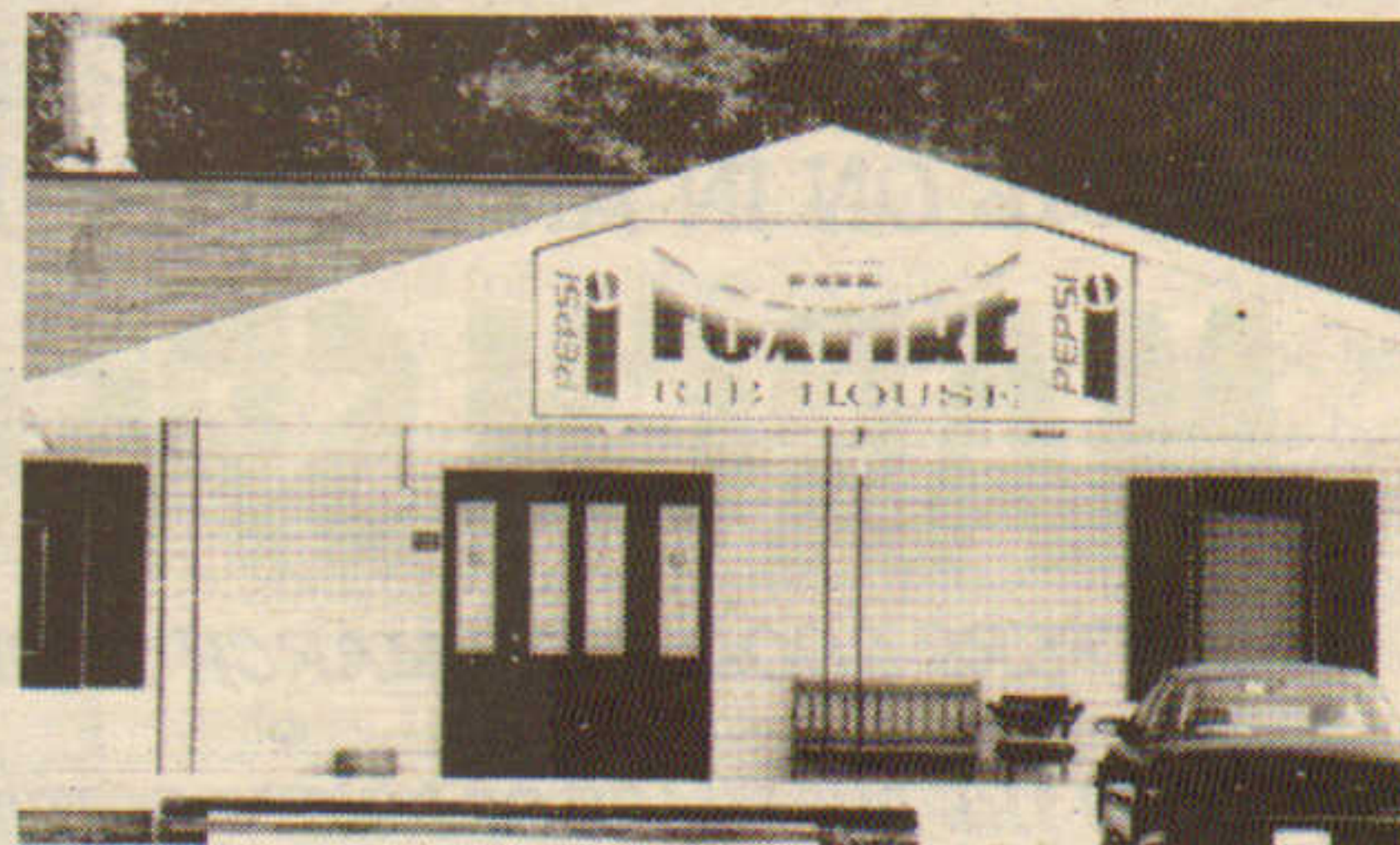
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SGA NEWS

The SGA is continuing to receive applications for the 1999-2000 officers. Thursday, March 11, was the deadline to turn in applications for this honor.

All applicants had to attend a meeting with the Dean of Students at 3 p.m. on Thursday, March 11. The school-wide voting process will be held March 18, 19, and 22.

"Serving as the SGA President here at Shelton has been a wonderful experience and has opened many doors for me. I would encourage candidacy to anyone that is unsure about running," said current SGA president Becky Avery.

On March 17, everyone will have the opportunity to meet the candidates at the "Spring Fling." In addition to the candidates, the SGA served food, great music, terrific games, and it is

rumored that a dunking booth was put to use. To follow up such a fun-filled day, the SGA will be hosting



SGA President Becky Avery

a state-wide Junior College Leadership Conference on Saturday, March 20, at 9 a.m. in the atrium.

"This conference was initi-

ated to protest the automatic "F" absence policy. This will also offer another chance to meet the candidates," Avery said. "Terrific speakers that I have personally selected will be on hand to excite you."

Then the SGA wants to start AEA off with "Students Night Out" on Tuesday, March 23. Location has not yet been confirmed, more details was to be available on March 17 at the Spring Fling. "Roller skating has been a popular idea," Avery said.

If you are interested in helping out with any of the mentioned events, the SGA meets on Tuesdays at 2:30 and Wednesdays at 12:00 in room 126A beside the cafeteria or you may contact Tracy Branch in the Counseling Center.

Black History Month ends with Fredd campus program



By Jennifer Cooper

Shelton State's CA Fredd Campus celebrated Black History Month Feb. 22 with a forum entitled "Something to Celebrate."

State Senator Bryant Melton presided over the program. Rick Rogers, assistant to President Thomas Umphrey, started the program off by asking the audience to sing, "Lift Every Voice," which is often referred to as the "Negro National Anthem."

This program planners hoped by joining blacks and

whites together in the audience through song, the audience would be able to acknowledge the past, and note how far African-Americans have come today.

Bonnie Sabbagh, secretary to Dean of Students Humphrey Lee, said, "The program was very good. It moved me."

Speakers included Senator Charles Steele and Miss Shelton State, LeKeisha Steele, who told their own individual stories of what Black History Month to them and encouraged young African-Americans that they control their future.

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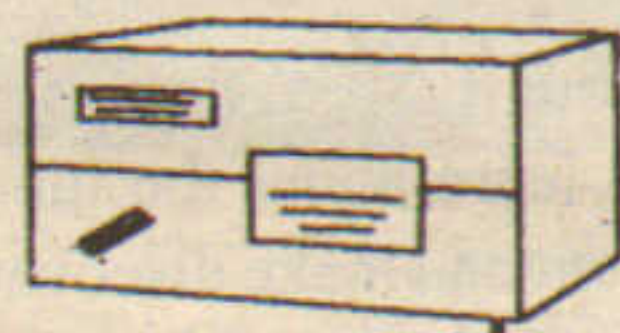
Martin Campus

Thursday, March 18: 8-9:15, 11:30-2, 4-6.
Friday, March 19: 8-10, 11-1
Monday, March 22: 9-12:30, 4-6

Fredd Campus

Thursday, March 18: 9:30-11

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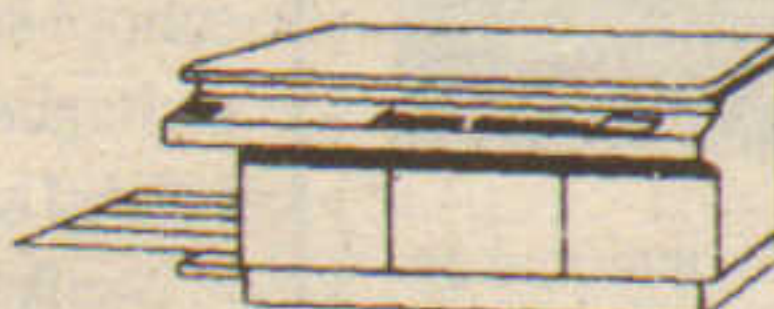


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Both students and teachers give time and money for Read Across America program

On March 2, People across the country celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss. They did this in the form of the "Read Across America Day."

President Bill Clinton urged Americans to take part in this program that involves making children and adults aware of the joy that can be brought from reading a book to children. Some of the suggested

activities for participating in this project were to sponsor an evening pajama party at a local library, and to encourage children to come to school dressed as story book characters.

Read Across America is organized and supported by the National Education Association and the International Reading Association.

In 1998, more than one million adults and more than 10 million children participated, including members of the Shelton administration who read to children in the college's Child Development Center.

This year the CDC children were visited by members of the college's Phi theta Kappa chapter, the academic honorary.

The faculty and staff members of Shelton's AEA/ESPO also joined in by donating time to read and money to buy books.



AEA representative Lisa Matherson (L) hands over a check for purchasing books to CDC Director Carolyn Edwards

College's Alumni Association enjoys a wonderful evening of "Barbecue and Begonias" and good advice

Shelton's landscape and turf instructor Dennis Crim was the guest speaker for the March 8 meeting of the Shelton State Alumni Association.

Secrets of successful spring gardening combined

with a barbecue dinner made for a very successful meeting of former Shelton students, according to Lucy Kubiszyn, alumni director.

"We are committed to reaching as many of our former students as possible

for the Shelton State Alumni Association," Kubiszyn said. "We think our 'Barbecue & Begonias' evening in the cafeteria area of Shelton's Martin Campus is the kind of program we can build widespread support around."

Golf team is on the upswing after winning tournament continued from pg. 5

day total of 150.

Coach Collins didn't view the loss as a setback.

"I think we may have scheduled too many tournaments in too short of a time. We've played three now in just over a two week time. The boys were just not mentally into it," said Collins.

The golf team travels next to the Marion Institute Invitational on March 19 and 20. They will be available for local viewing with a home tournament at Hidden Meadows Golf Club on April 5 and 6.

This will be Buccaneer fans' chance to see potential all-America player Jason Dillard play. A very strong iron player, according to Coach Collins, he leads the team with a 72.1 stroke average.

Basketball teams enjoy winning seasons continued from page 5

against Gadsden State in Muscle Shoals, Ala.

In the second game against Calhoun, the women just couldn't keep it together.

"Calhoun had some spurts where they scored a lot and also had some times when they fell behind.

"It was a wild game all around. We were just too timid. We finally got started but it was too late," says assistant head coach Holly Williams.

Shelton's women finish the season 15-13 and look forward to an even better year next season.

"We would have like to have had a better record or done better at the tournament, but considering our depth, I'm overall real happy with the season.

"Everything is going well with our recruiting. I've had some real good looks and I think we'll be in a good position next year," says Thompson.

Very popular boating safety class offered on one Saturday at Shelton

Shelton State Community College and the Alabama Marine Police will offer a one-day boating safety class on Saturday, April 10, from 9 a.m. -4 p.m. on the college's Martin Campus located at 9500 Old Greensboro Road in Tuscaloosa. This class will help West Alabama boaters meet the requirements for the Boat Operators License.

All boaters will be required to have a license to operate a vessel after April 28, including personal watercraft. Students who complete the course, which

includes a written examination, will receive a certificate from the Alabama Marine Police that will exempt them from taking the written portion of the examination prior to obtain a boating license.

The fee for the class is \$10, and registration is required before April 2. Students registering for the course who are under the age of 16 years must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. For reservations in the class or for more information, call Shelton State's department of Continuing Education, (205) 391-2386

Moon Link Project will be a blast for visiting junior high students

The college will play host to seventh, eighth, and ninth-grade students from Collins-Riverside Junior High School on Saturday, March 20, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. At that time, the college, in partnership with the school, with a new educational project, Moonlink, courtesy of NASA.

NASA's Lunar Prospector Mission is managed and controlled through the agency's Ames research Center, which is offering this educational program designed for middle and high school students. They are given a chance to become actively involved in this mission.

A year ago, the Lunar Prospector spacecraft was launched for a one-year mapping mission

in lunar orbit. The satellite will gather data on the moon's surface composition, out-gassing events, gravity, and magnetic fields. This data will lead to a greater understanding of the origin, evolution, current state, and resources of the moon.

Through Moonlink, students will learn about the lunar environment and make discoveries along with the Prospector science team.

The program is accessible through the World Wide Web and operates best in a computer lab with Internet access. As host, Shelton will provide the computers, and Darrell Wright, computer instructor, will be on hand to assist students.

Alabama Wildflower Society



Native Plant Sale!



Saturday, April 10—8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Kentuck Center, Downtown Northport

Bulletin Board

Sandra Ray, Shelton's representative on the Alabama State Board of Education, will be the keynote speaker for the 1999 Annual meeting dinner of the Shelton State Alumni association.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 27, at 6 p.m. on the Martin campus.

Tickets for the dinner and meeting are \$10 each and may be purchased by calling the alumni office at 391-2252.

Thirty-five scholarships will be available fall semester through the Shelton State Foundation.

More than \$21,000 in awards will be given.

Applications are available in the Foundation Office located on the third floor of the Martin campus.

Applications are also available in the main office on the Fredd campus.

What is this? Christmas in the spring time?

Students will be out of school for a long stretch in the coming weeks. March 24-26 will be off days for students as the faculty participates in meetings and professional development of the Alabama College Association.

Immediately after, students will again be treated to a break—Spring Break—from March 29 through April 2.

That is eight days off of school for students! Better take a peek at those textbooks some time.

Shelton State Courier is cooking online

The *Shelton State Courier Online* is more than just an electronic newspaper, with the advent of technology we are able to bring you much more than just the news.

We now have a sports section devoted to Shelton State with schedules, rosters and a gallery of pictures from each of the seasons to take a look at. Sports couldn't be more exciting.

In addition to sports, we now have a live Bulletin Board where you can post messages and comments about the *Courier*, including what you would like to see or not see, what you think about an article, or maybe even suggest an article you would like us to do.

We also have the CyberCorner, where you can read up on the latest in technological news and even pick from our links to some popular sites.

Shelton's Food Court is now also

available online for you to look at in the convenience of your own home. Menus will up available weekly.

From the SGA to astronomy and back to Shelton State. The *Shelton State Courier Online* is something you should check out.

The next time you're surfing, enjoy the...

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Public Service Announcement

The Cycle Path Second annual Camp Partlow Duathlon will be held on Saturday, April 10, at Camp Partlow. This RRCA-sanctioned event is co-sponsored by the Tuscaloosa Track Club and Patrons of Partlow.

The Duathlon consists of a two-mile trail run, followed by a 17-mile road bike ride and ends with another two-mile trail run. First, second, and third-place plaques will be awarded in 11 age brackets for men and nine age brackets for women. Additionally, first-place plaques will be given to participants in the co-ed, male, and female team (two people per team) categories.

Entry fees (if postmarked by April 1) are: Individual—\$15; Team—\$20. The day of the event, entry fees will be: Individual —\$20; Team—\$25.

For entry form and/or additional information, call Larry Pierson at 553-4550, ext. 4480, Elton Griffin at 553-4550, ext. 4245, or Mike Higgins at 339-3710.

Habitat cont'd from pg. 3

the project for Holy Spirit, if all goes well with the project, the church will happily involve students from Shelton again to build new houses.

The spirit of Habitat for Humanity is based in volunteerism involving many kinds of people with little or no experience building houses.

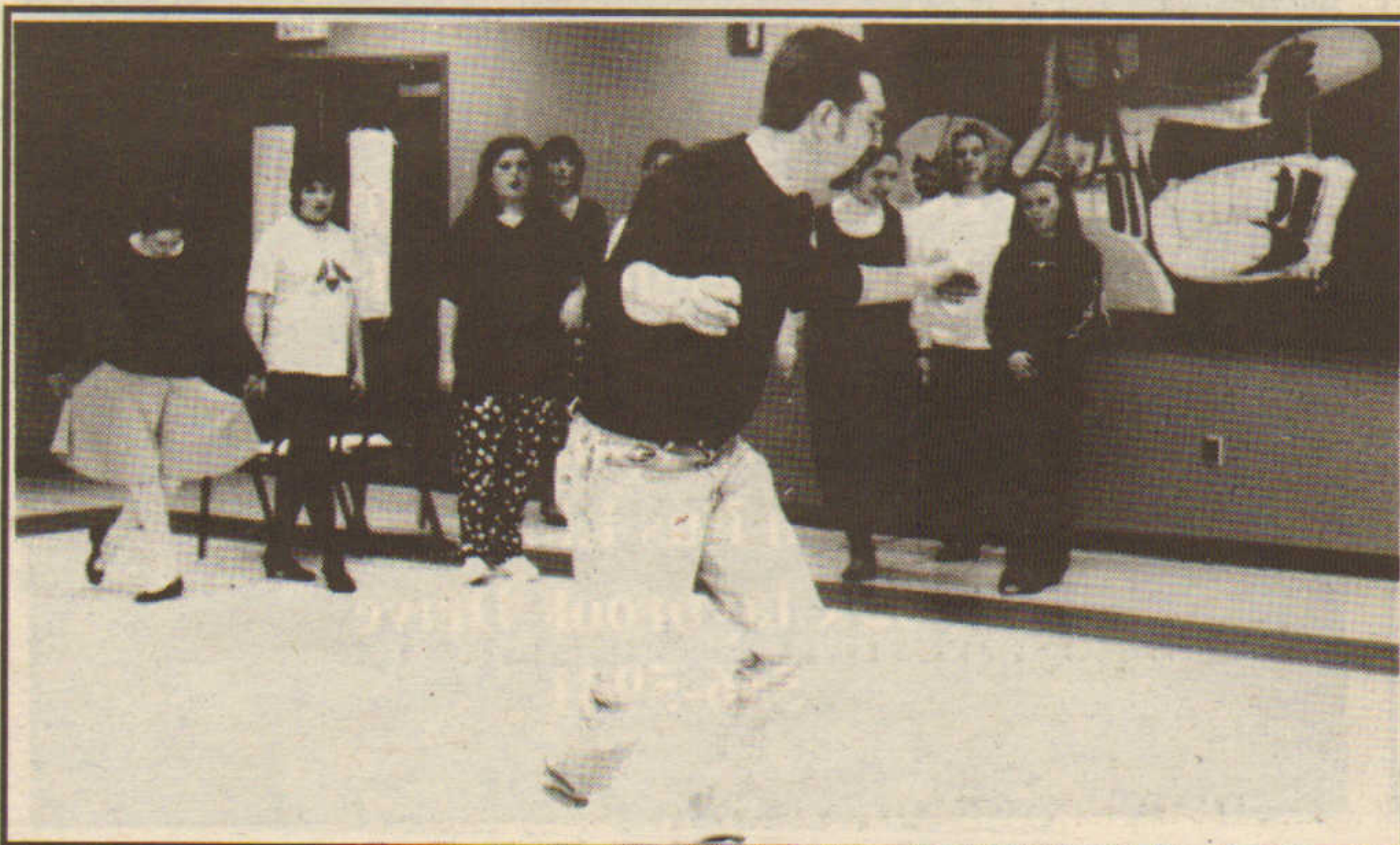
That was certainly true for student DeCarlos Turner who said he was a little nervous about working on the house; after all a real-live family is scheduled to move in soon. But Turner was not about to let his fears stop him; no matter what he was "still gonna raise the roof."

Baseball cont'd. from pg 6

Moyer had two singles, Clay Rice a triple and Joe Cox and Nate Rodgers each had a double to bring the men within one, before time and sunlight ran out.

Later in the week, the men were away on March 15 to split a double header against Wallace-Hanceville. They won the first one 2-1 on a game winning RBI by Jon Mark Sprowl to drive in a Bryan Davis run. The Buccaneers dropped the second game 1-0.

"We had runners on first and third but couldn't score," said Sprowl.



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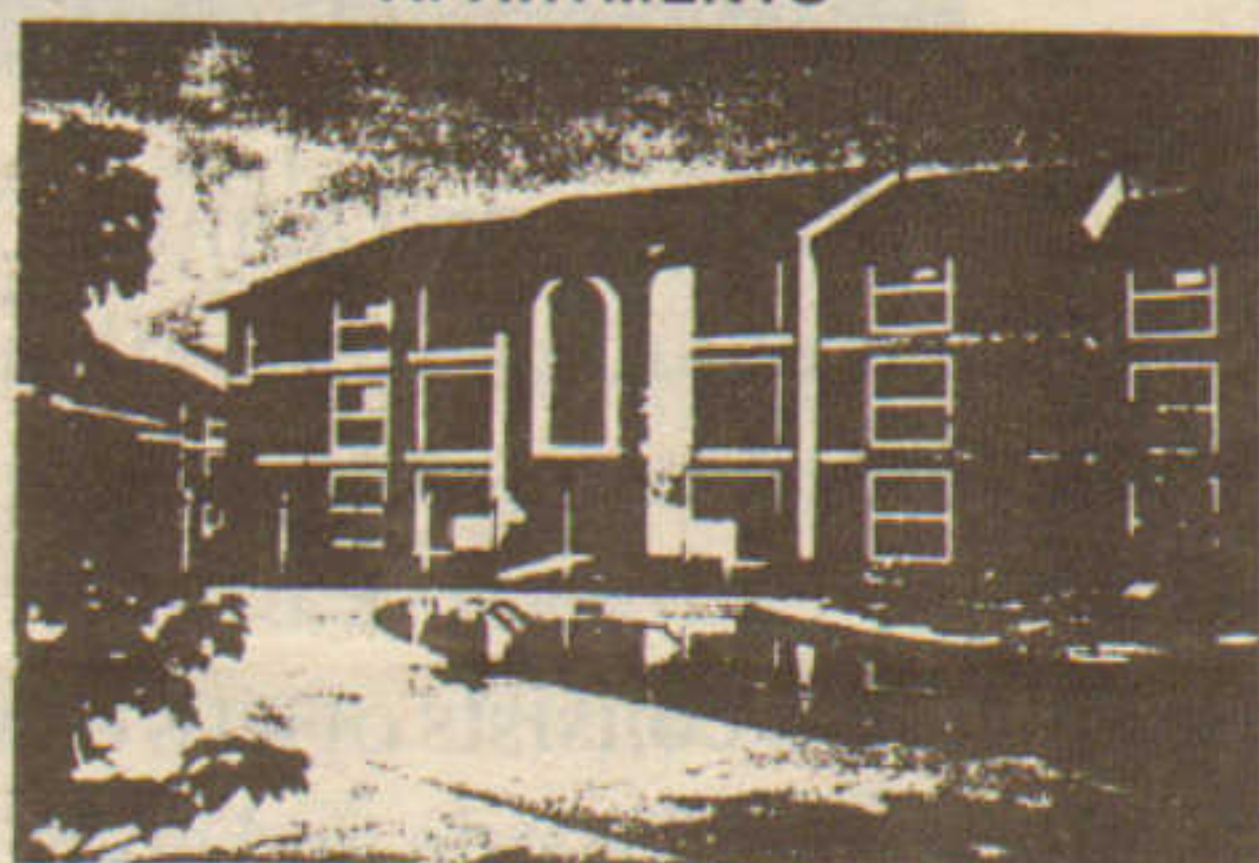
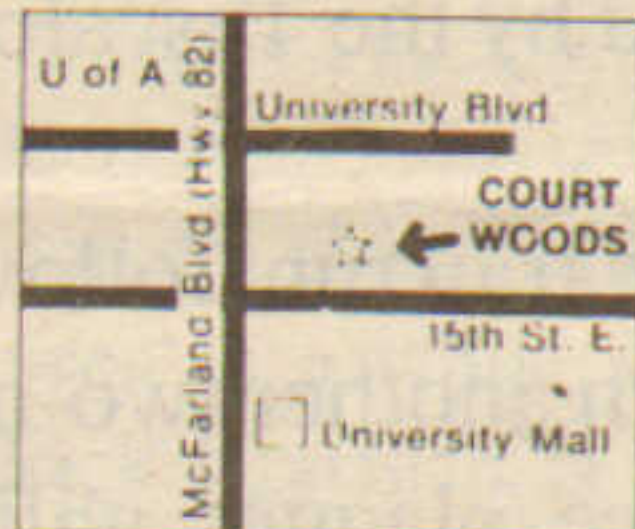


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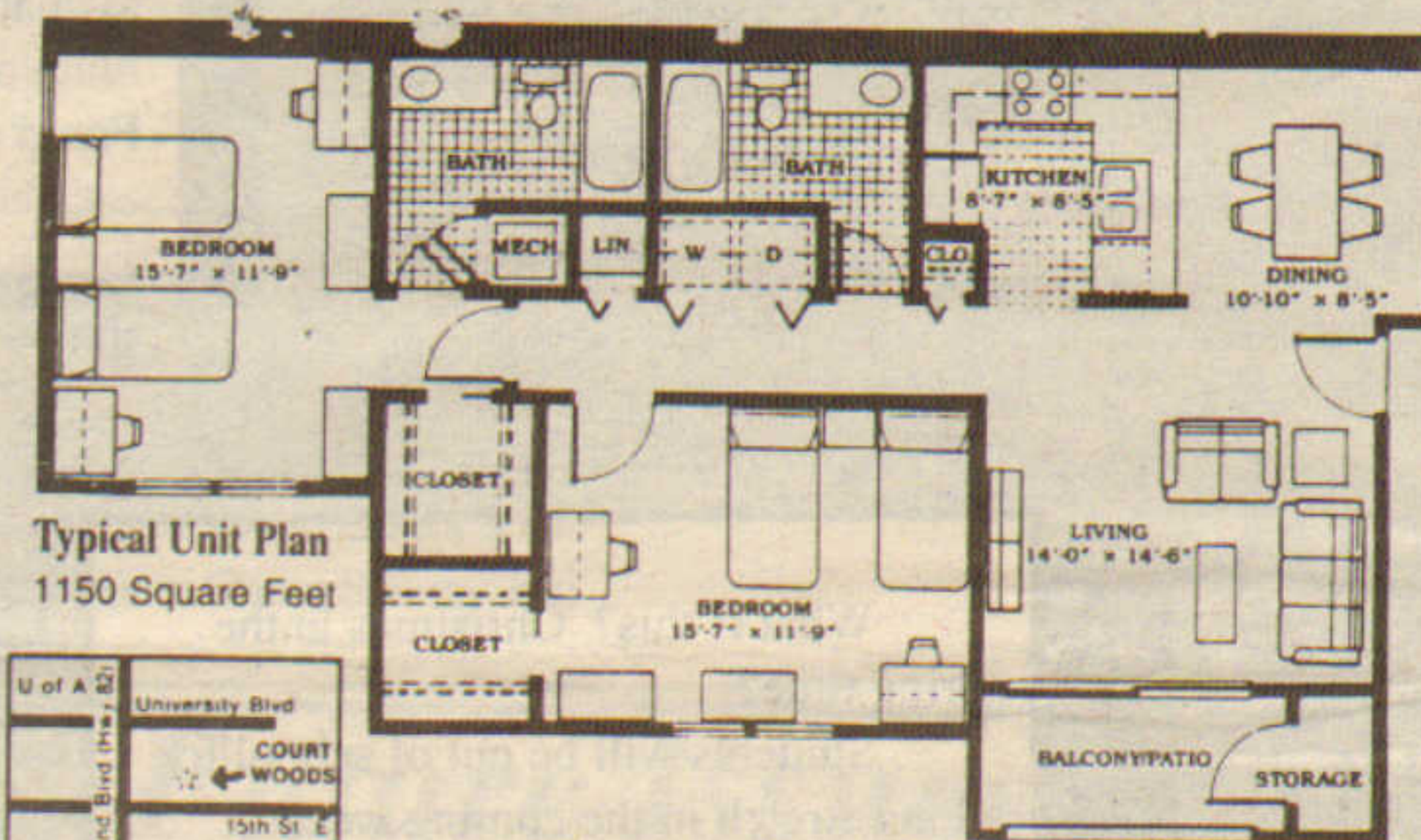
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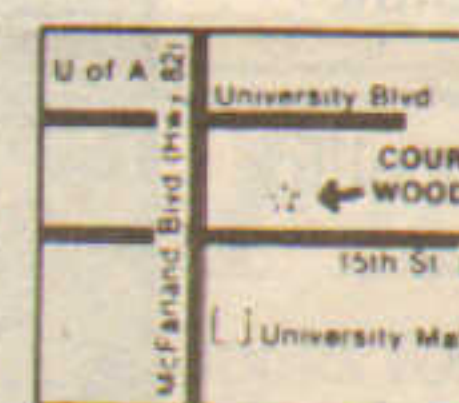
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